



City of Alexandria

Transportation Commission

Regular Meeting

September 9, 2013
7:00 p.m.
City Council Chambers

MINUTES

Commissioners Present: Councilman Lovain, Kerry Donley, John Komoroske, Jennifer Mitchell, Kevin Posey, and Maria Wasowski

Staff Present: Rich Baier – T&ES, Carrie Beach - P&Z, Chris Bever – OMB, Ben Aiken-- OMB, Karen Callahan – T&ES, Bernie Caton – CMO, Sandra Marks – T&ES, Jim Maslanka – T&ES, Raymond Mui - DASH, Marti Reinfeld -T&ES, Steve Sindiong - T&ES, Andre Stafford – DASH,

The Chair called the Transportation Commission meeting to order at 7:00 pm.

1. July 3, 2013 Meeting Minutes

Commissioner Mitchell asked if there were any comments or edits regarding the July 2013 meeting minutes. Kerry Donley made a motion to approve the minutes. John Komoroske offered a correction on a typo from the June 5, 2013 minutes and seconded the motion to approve the July minutes. There being no further objections, the minutes were voted on and unanimously approved.

2. Legislative Proposals for General Assembly

Bernie Caton, the City's Legislative Director, offered City Council's timeline to prepare for Legislative Package Proposals to be submitted for the 2014 General Assembly Session beginning on January 8, 2014. A draft Legislative Package will be presented to Council on October 22, 2013. Council will have a public hearing on the Proposed Legislative Package on November 16, 2013. Mr. Caton requested input from the Transportation Commission for the Legislative Package. Commissioner Kerry Donley made a motion that the Commission receive the report from the Legislative Director and endorse the three recommended legislative proposals carried over from 2011. The motion was seconded, voted on, and unanimously approved.

3. Funding Update

T&ES staff Sandra Marks reported that very few public meetings were held in August on actions of major regional transportation bodies as they relate to the City.

City Council : No meeting held in August.

DRPT: The General Assembly passed legislation requiring new transit funding to be allocated based on performance. The Transit Service Delivery Advisory Committee (TSDAC) was formed to develop methodology and indicators, and met throughout July / August. They have developed a 3 phased approach to reward performance improvement over baseline performance in different phases in transition periods in FY2104, FY2015, and FY2016 and beyond.

Commonwealth Transportation Board: No items affecting Alexandria were discussed.

TPB: Approved the Constrained Long Range Transportation Plan, and projects to be funded under the FY2014 Transportation Alternatives and Transportation / Land Use Connections Program.

WMATA: Approved modifications to the WMATA Joint Development Policies Guidelines on July 25, 2013; authorized staff to issue Request for Proposal (RFP) for sale of the Royal Street Bus Garage; Approved public hearings to be held in September 2013 for bus service changes.

NVTC: Received a briefing on the SuperNOVA implementation Plan on July 11, 2013 from DRPT; The Board approved a letter to Congress endorsing the Commuter Parity Act.

NVTA: Held public hearing on July 24, 2013 and endorsed recommendations of the project implementation work group for FY2014 regional funding.

4. CMAQ – RSTP Funding Request - PUBLIC HEARING

T&ES staff Sandra Marks announced that the public hearing was to consider the FY2015-FY 2020 Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality Improvement Program (CMAQ) and Regional Surface Transportation Program (RSTP) project funding request. CMAQ funds are allocated to metropolitan regions that do not meet Clean Air Act regulations. RSTP funds are very flexible funds that can be used for a wide range of regional transportation projects that improve or preserve transportation infrastructure. Northern Virginia Transportation Authority (NVTA) distributes the funds to the jurisdictions based on jurisdiction requests. Ms. Marks presented the City's list of twelve projects for the FY 2015-FY2020 funding request. The City must submit its FY2015 – FY2020 CMAQ/RSTP funding request to NVTA by September 27, 2013.

Sandra Marks reported on the different transportation funding sources the City can anticipate for FY 2015. Staff proposes a funding strategy that reserves NVTA's 70% for major capital investments with regional impacts; relies on CMAQ, RSTP, and NVTA's 30% funds for non-motorized, project development, ADA improvements, and transit capital maintenance.

As capital projects get built, operating needs will increase, and therefore, the City should focus NVTA's 30% funds and TIP funds on operating expenses in out years. The City should continue to pursue discretionary grant funding for non-motorized and dedicated transitways.

Chair Mitchell opened the Public Hearing. There being no one wishing to speak, the public hearing was closed. After Commission discussions, a motion to approve the recommendation of projects for the FY 2015-FY 2020 funding request was made by Commissioner Posey, seconded by Commissioner Komoroske, voted on and unanimously approved.

5. Dash Comprehensive Operations Analysis (COA) Update

T&ES staff Steve Sindiong stated that the City and the Alexandria Transit Company (ATC) jointly hired a vendor to conduct a comprehensive operations analysis for the DASH bus system.

The analysis will include an evaluation of previous and existing studies, a collection of new data based on current service and the development of short and long range recommendations and solutions to improve and expand service in the future. Stakeholder input was sought from riders and non-riders through stakeholder interviews, on board bus and telephone surveys, and an on-line survey. A market analysis is underway to determine transit demand on market segments, travel patterns and transit competitiveness. Public meetings will be held on September 11 at the Durant Center, and on September 12 at Landmark Mall, to provide information and receive public input. The recommendations will be presented to the Transportation Commission and City Council during the 2013-14 winter months and to the ATC Board in early 2014 for consideration that the recommendations are approved.

6. Staff Updates

The Commission received written staff updates on the Potomac Yard Metrorail Station, Crystal City/Potomac Yard Route 1 Transitway, and DASH governance.

T&ES Director Rich Baier informed the Commissioners of a City Council tour and comprehensive briefing on Potomac Yard issues scheduled for September 21, 2013 at Potomac Yards. The regularly scheduled City Council public hearing will follow the tour at 10:30 in City Council Chambers.

7. Commission Updates

Chair Jennifer Mitchell disclosed that her employer has agreed to represent the Department of Rail and Public Transportation (DRPT) as advisors on the Transit Service Delivery Advisory Committee. Ms. Mitchell will be the Project Manager providing technical support. Further, she stated should there be discussions on the topic during Transportation Commission meetings, she will excuse herself.

Commissioner Posey asked staff to present an update on the joint efforts of Alexandria and Arlington in regards to the Four Mile Run Restoration.

Chair Mitchell recommended a Transportation Commission retreat to discuss broader policy objectives, major projects, and Commission's role and ways to support other City groups and commissions. She stated she would work with staff on potential dates for such a retreat if there was interest from the Commissioners.

At 8:32 pm, there being no further business, Chair Mitchell made a motion to adjourn which was seconded, voted on and unanimously approved.